Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on Page 13, line 27 through Page 14, line 11 with the following replacement paragraph.

Nucleic acid hybridization buffers that may be used include phosphate and TRIS buffers, for example, at a pH of about 6 to 8. In one embodiment, a standard saline phosphate ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid ("SSPE") buffer is used. An exemplary phosphate buffer includes: 0.06M H_2PO_4/HPO_4, 1M Na^+, 0.006M EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid), 0.005% of the generic product octylphenol ethylene oxide condensate, the generic form is also known as PEG (9-10)*p-t*-octylphenol, sold under TRITON X-100, as described by Sigma, at a pH of about 6.8, referred to herein as "6XSSPE-T". In one preferred embodiment, in a nucleic acid hybridization assay, a sulfonate hybridization buffer is used, for example a buffer including 2-[N-morpholino]ethanesulfonic acid ("MES"). For example, the hybridization buffer may include about 0.01 M to about 2 M MES or more, *e.g.*, about 0.25 M MES, at a pH, for example, of about 6 to 7. In one embodiment, the MES buffer includes: 0.25M MES, 1M Na^+, and 0.005% of the generic product octylphenol ethylene oxide condensate sold under TRITON X-100, as described by Sigma, at a pH of about 6.7. The hybridization may be conducted, for example, at about 25 to 70°C, for example, about 45°C. Optionally, the buffer may be filtered prior to use, for example, through a 2 μm filter.

Remarks

Applicants have addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, have provided a heading for each issue.

I. Election/Restriction

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acceptance of the election filed on April 23, 2001 (Paper No. 6). Claims 23-31 are currently pending.

II. Oath/Declaration

A supplemental oath has been filed along with this Response as per the Examiner's instructions. William A. Lyon and Huu Minh Tran are joint inventors of the Application. Huu Minh Tran is not available to sign the supplemental oath as he terminated employment with Affymetrix, Inc. (assignee) on April 29, 2000, and is unreachable. Huu Minh Tran's last known address is: 3089 Melchester Drive, San Jose, California 95132. William A. Lyon is available and has signed the supplemental oath pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.67(b). The supplemental oath is attached in Appendix A.

III. Drawings

Applicants have filed corrected drawings as per the Examiner's instructions. The corrected drawings are attached in Appendix B and the marked versions showing the corrections made are attached in Appendix C.

IV. Specification

The specification as amended on December 30, 2002, resulted in the capitalization of the TRITON X-100 mark and the addition of the following language "generic product octylphenol ethylene oxide condensate" to provide the generic terminology of the product represented by the

mark. Applicants provided the above listed information in the December 30, 2002 amendment in a sincere effort to comply with the requirements of capitalization of a trademark and providing generic terminology of the trademarked product. In light of the Examiner's additional requirement of clearly stating the generic terminology in the current Office Action, Applicants have further amended the specification to reflect alternative generic terminology of the product TRITON X-100.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 23-31. Applicants believe that they have complied with all formal requirements listed by the Examiner in the Office Action.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, and in summary, Applicants believe that all issues and points of the Examiner's Office Action have been addressed in a sincere effort to advance prosecution of this Application.

Please debit Deposit Account No. 50-0581 for any additional fees.

Dated this 22 day of August 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison B. Mohr (Reg. No. 48,170)
PARSONS BEHLE & LATIMER
One Utah Center
201 South Main Street, Suite 1800
Post Office Box 45898
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0898
(801) 532-1234

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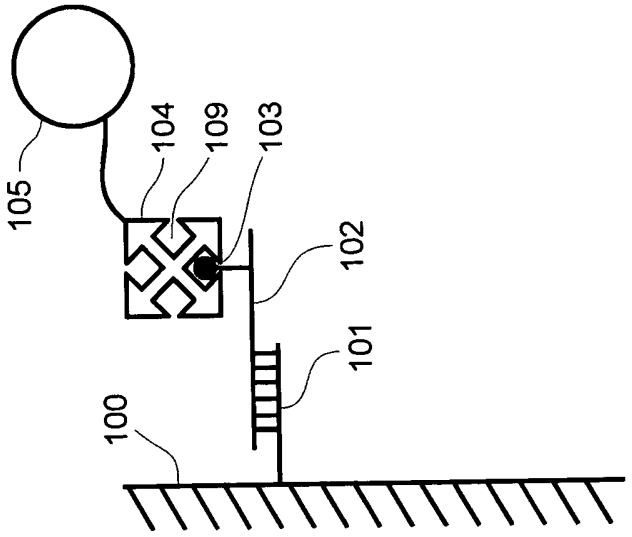

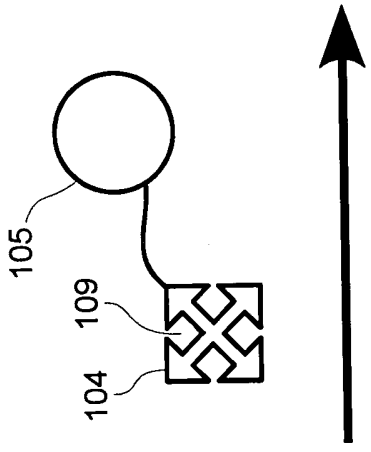

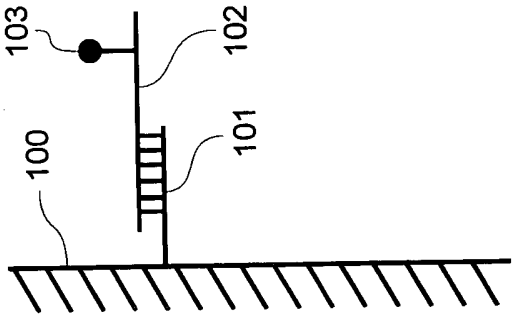

Fig. 1

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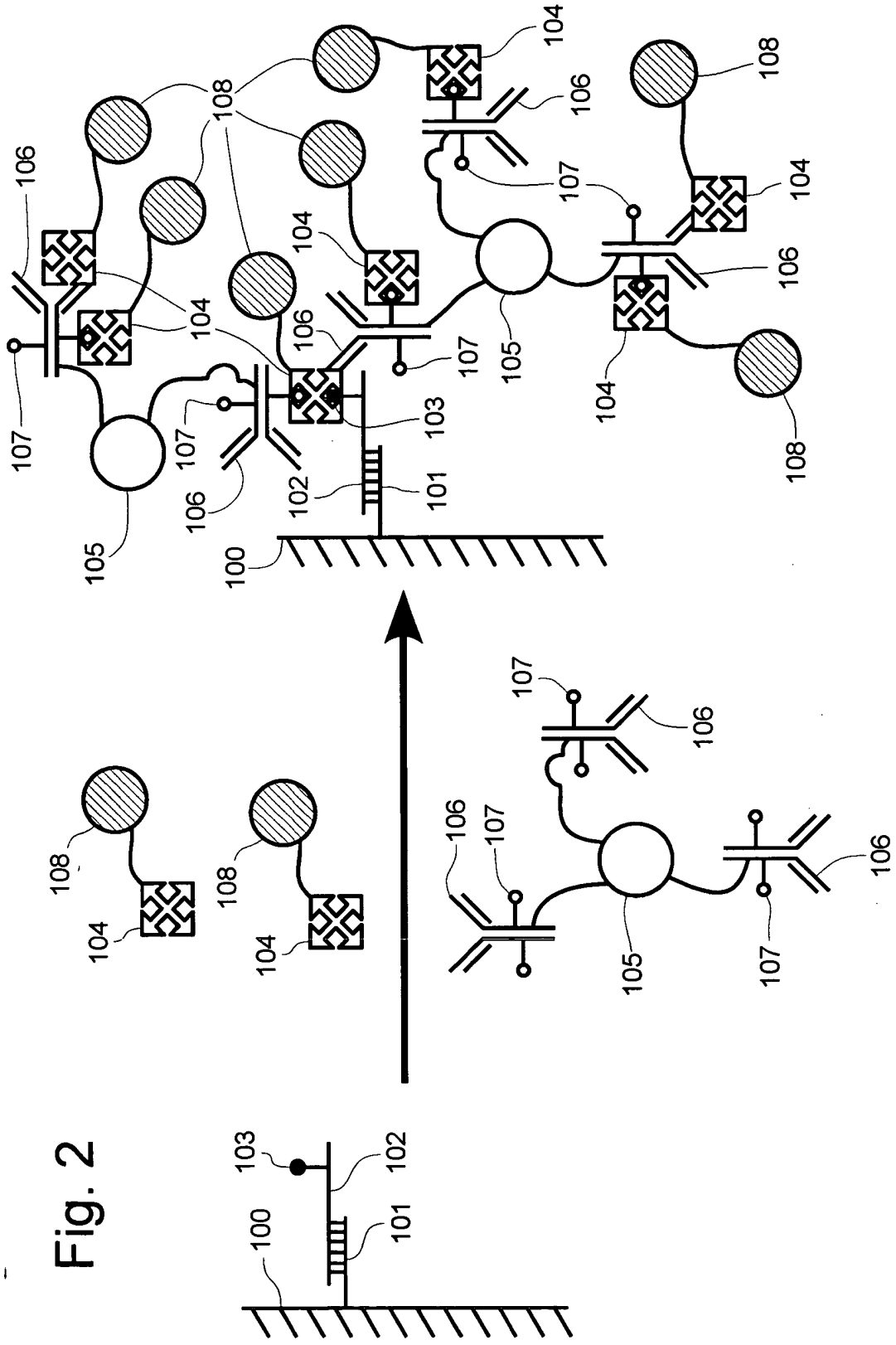

Fig. 2

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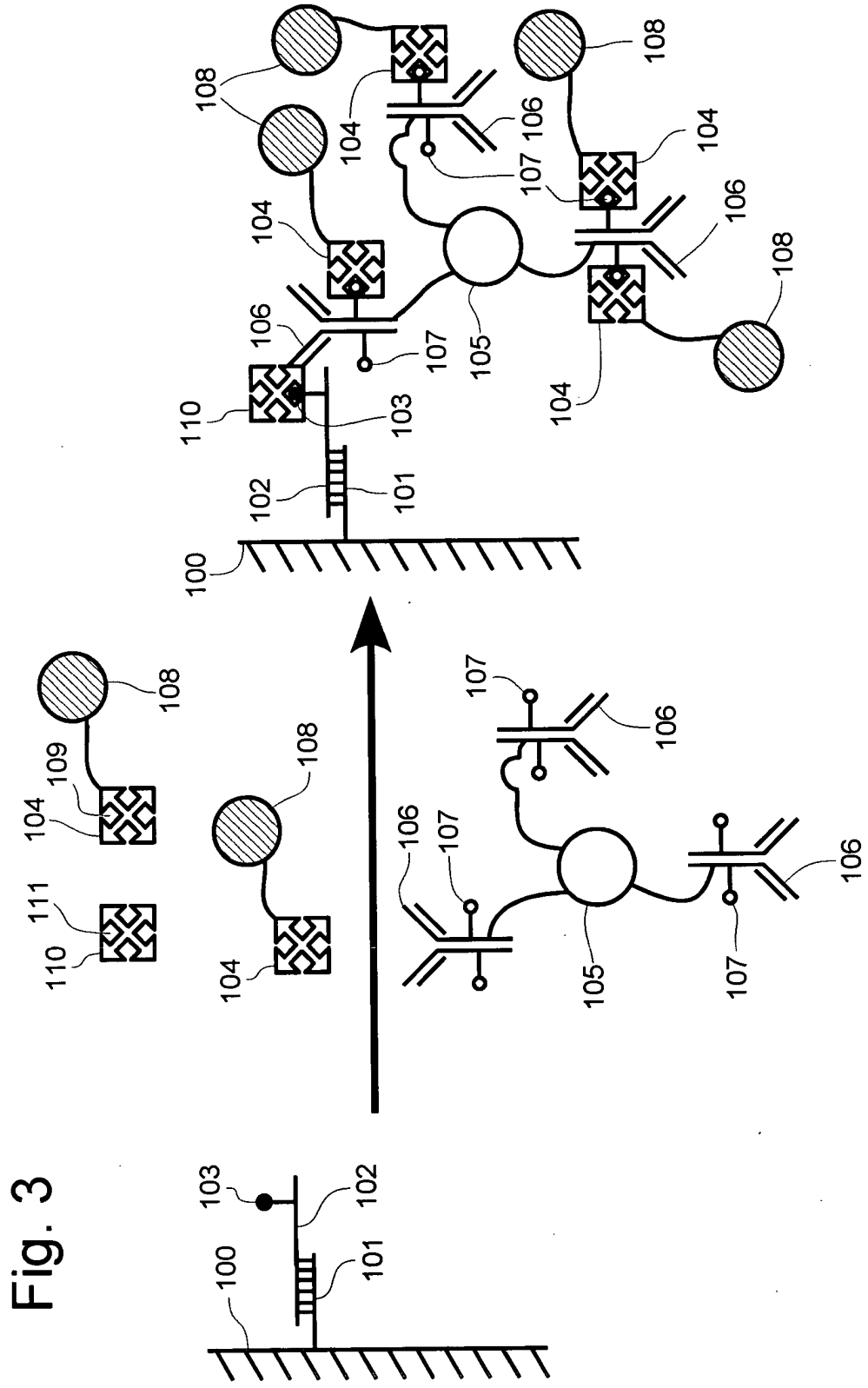

Fig. 3

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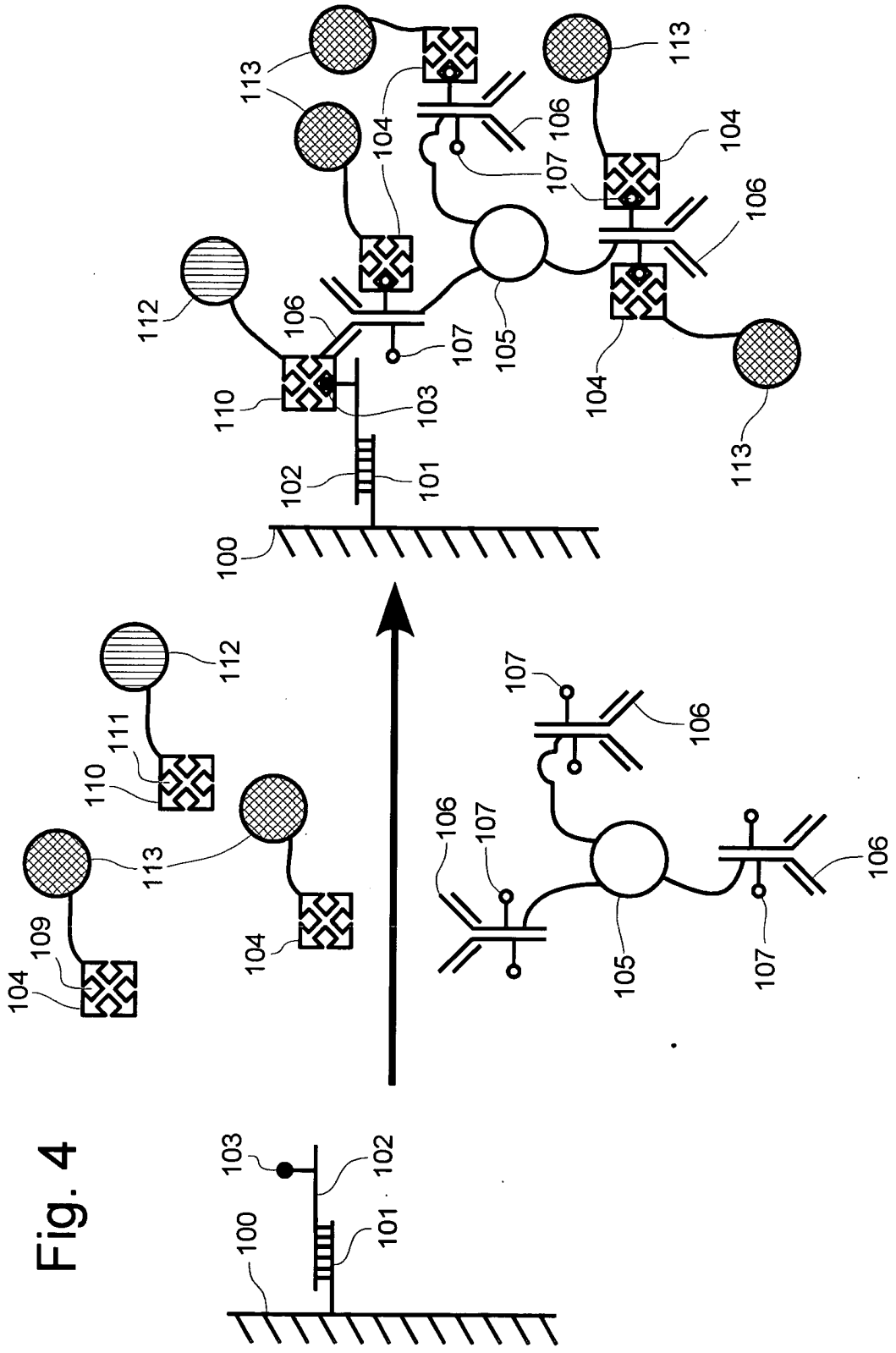

Fig. 4